Management (CRM) course for the flight crew, making mandatory installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) and ground Proximity Warning System in the aircraft.

Augmentation of Fleet by Air India

2492. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to allow Air India to augment its fleet; if so, the details thereof indicating the number and specification of aircrafts to be acquired; and

(b) if no permission to augment the fleet is to be given, what measures Government propose to take to cut losses suffered by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Expansion/ renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on various factors, the more important ones being the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type and viability of operations of various sectors/routes.

Operation of flights in the North-Eastern Region

2493. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not operating evening flight between Guwahati and Delhi;

(b) the reasons for operating flight to Dibrugarh, Silehar, Dimapur, Tezpur, and Jorhat only from Calcutta by passing Guwahati;

(c) the progress made towards making Guwahati a regional hub for North-East as per PM's declaration and the time by which this is scheduled to be operative; and

(d) the details of the plan and the present status of the regional air service network proposed to link important towns of North-East from Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Airlines generally select the timings and the sectors depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability of the flights subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines which provide for at least 10% of the operator's capacity deployed on Category-I (Trunk routes) to be made available for the North-East, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(c) and (d) Government is conscious of the problems of the North East region and is closely monitoring the development of airlinks and infrastructure.

The details of the existing routes schedule of operations in the North-Eastern region is given in the Statement.